

Dear Colleague

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Staff Union representative for zone 33.

I joined Britannia in March 1997 in the Sales and Recoveries Team as an Admin Assistant and then progressed into an Account Supervisor role in the same team doing shortfall debt collection. I moved to the eBusiness team working as a Website developer on the Society's Internet site and spent 12 months on secondment as a Change Manager in the Internet Team/Contact Centre. My current role is in Facilities.

I became a rep in 2003 after I was involved in an Outsourcing programme and realised the importance of an active Union. I was a bsUlearn rep from project inception until I left my role as Project Worker (I spent 12 months on secondment in 2005/6). I'm also a Health and Safety Rep sitting on the Society's Health & Safety committee, and I'm also part of the Union's Communications panel.

As one of the Union's officers I am a member of the negotiating committee and therefore I am directly involved in additional activities such as negotiation and consultation with the Society. This includes the annual pay and benefit negotiations but this is only a small part of our work.

As an officer I am also involved with restructures across the business, changes to contracts and other terms and conditions, policy design and amendments etc. The officer group is also responsible for the internal Union activities such as its finances and very importantly the development and support provided to our Representatives and the service we offer to members.

The amount of work that the Union puts in to maintaining and improving your working environment at Britannia has increased tremendously in recent years. We are here to help with a range of subjects, from salary negotiations and contractual changes, through to disciplines and grievances - areas where we can provide real support and guidance.

Members of BSU have access to a dedicated team of representatives, who between them have an enormous amount of knowledge and skills, combined with a great understanding of Britannia's policies and procedures. Whether you need representation or find yourself in an uncertain situation and just need the reassurance gained from sitting down and talking it through with somebody, we are here to help.

You can also take advantage of the many discounts we offer ranging from discounted insurance policies (car, holiday, pet, etc.) through to discounted balloon flights.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about BSU's activities please contact me on 01538 393843 or send me an email and I'll be happy to talk to you.

Yours sincerely
Carl Plant
Zone 33 representative